Exporters Entitlement (NQEE) from one year to two years, earmarking certain percentage of annual level for the FCFS System, restricting transfer of entitlements during June—September period to 50% of the entitlements etc.

The Government had carefully considered the representation and also various other representations received regarding various aspects of the quota policy and decided that it is desirable to make changes with regard to two elements of the policy. Accordingly, amendments were issued to the Policy providing for direct transfer of entitlements between the exporters and imposing certain restrictions on transfer of entitlements during June-September period.

Stabilisation of Cotton Yarn Prices

3860. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by the Ministry of Textiles urging for stabilization of cotton yarn prices to be fixed by an Export Committee to be appointed for the purpose and for placing stabilization fund of Rs. 100 crores at the disposal of N.H.D.C. for the purpose of procuring and distributing yarn at stabilized prices to handloom weavers in and outside the cooperatives; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is provided with assistance by way of share capital for enabling it to supply yarn to handloom weavers. Assistance is also provided under mill-gate price scheme. The NHDC procures and distributes yarn on receipt of specific indents and is not engaged in storage of yarn. The scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres has targeted, *inter alia*, to enhance the capital base of the primaries so that they are able to procure larger quantities of yarn and thus give more employment to handloom weavers. In view of these reasons, Government does not propose to create a stabilisation fund of Rs. 100 crores.

Relief to Handloom Weavers.

3861. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation from members of parliament and weavers' cooperative societies have been received by the Prime Minister requesting for immediate relief to millions of handloom weavers in dire distress ;

(b) if so, what are the demands made for their relief; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to meet their demands in order to provide relief to handloom weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following are the demands made by the signatories of the representation :—

(i) to suspend the exports of cotton yarn till such time they go down to the level of November, 1993 to help handloom weavers;

(ii) to create a stabiliation fund of Rs. 100 crores to stabilise the prices as suggested by an expert committee and arrange its procurement and distribution by NHDC Lucknow which may be assisted by a committee of handloom weavers in cooperatives for its effective functioning;

(iii) to direct the mills in the cooperative sector and also under the NTC to produce only hank yarn of standard counts; and

(iv) to prosecute the mills which have been deliberately defying the direction of the Government to produce hank yarn to the extent of 50% of their marketable output.

(c) Government has examined the demands made by the representationists. Cotton yarn exports constituted only 10% of the country's total cotton yarn production and thus suspension of cotton yarn exports may not have any perceptible impact on hank yarn prices. The increase in cotton yarn prices in the recent past has